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		Issue: C
	POLICY ON MANAGEMENT OF OUTBREAK OF AN INFECTION	Date: 06-01-2017
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PREPARED BY: Dy. Medical Superintendent		APPROVED BY: Chief Executive Officer

1.0 Purpose:

To define a policy for Apollo Hospitals, Hyderguda for the management of outbreak of an infection

2.0 Scope:

Hospital wide

3.0 Definitions:

ICC: Infection Control Committee


ICT: Infection Control Team

4.0 Policy

4.1 Management of an Outbreak

An outbreak may be defined as the occurrence of diseases at a rate greater than that expected within a specific geographical area and over a defined period of time. Day-to-day surveillance is important to identify cases of nosocomial infections and other infectious diseases so that appropriate action is taken. Major

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outbreaks of transmissible infection in both the hospital and community require appropriate planning to ensure effective management of such episodes.

4.2 The components are:

I) Recognition


The rapid recognition of outbreaks is one of the most important objectives of the routine surveillance of infection. Ideally, hospital surveillance system should facilitate the early detection of outbreaks. In some instances the occurrence of an outbreak may be obvious such an episode of food poisoning that effect both health care workers and patients, while in other instances the onset may not be immediately apparent. Sometimes the outbreak may manifest itself clearly to the medical and nursing staff. However some outbreaks may arise more insidiously and reach considerable proportions before they become apparent.

ii) Investigation

The principles for investigating outbreaks in hospitals are the same as for community based outbreaks. There are three basic steps i.e., (a) Describing the outbreak (b) developing a hypotheses and (c) testing the hypothesis with analytical epidemiology.

Once a possible outbreak has been recognized, the infection control team should take immediate steps to collect information from the ward and the laboratory, determine whether an outbreak is occurring and establish a case definition.

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iii) Outbreak Control

Preliminary control measures should be introduced as soon as possible and be based on sound infection control practices such as patient isolation and/or hand washing. Heightened surveillance should be introduced to assess the impact of all control measures. As soon as possible information about the outbreak, the investigation and the results should also be conveyed to those at risk.

iv) Outbreak Control Plan


Depending upon the nature of the infectious disease and number of cases involved, the Infection Control Committee should be convened to control the Outbreak.. The aim of Infection Control Committee is to:

- Facilitate the investigation of the outbreak.
- Implement measures necessary to control the outbreak.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the control measures.
- Oversee communication to all relevant groups.
- Facilitate the medical care of patients.

v) Communication:

The Infection control committee will inform the senior management .In an outbreak situation, the designated person responds to the enquiries from the public, press and the media. That person should be kept informed of all the developments by the Infection Control Committee.

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vi) End of outbreak:

At the end of outbreak, the Infection Control committee will prepare a final report. When the outbreak has been controlled, a final meeting of the Infection Control Committee will be held to:


- Review the experience of all participants involved in management of outbreak.
- Identify any shortfalls and particular difficulties that were encountered.
- Revise the outbreak control plan in accordance with the results.
- Recommend, if necessary, structural or procedural improvements that would reduce the chances of recurrence.

All outbreaks, however minor, will be investigated thoroughly and the outcomes of such investigations documented.

vii) Summary for Investigation of an Outbreak

- Begin preliminary evaluation and determine a background rate of infection.
- Confirm the existence of an outbreak.
- Confirm the diagnosis using the microbiological methods.
- Create a case definition that may include laboratory and clinical data. Start with a broad case definition that can be redefined at a later date.
- Develop line listings by identifying and counting cases or exposures. Describe the data in terms of time, place and person. Remember that cases may have been discharged from the hospital.
- Construct an epidemic curve. This may indicate the source of the outbreak.

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- Develop and test the hypothesis. In larger outbreaks, a case-control method may be the most efficient way of testing a hypothesis: however, if a single hospital ward is affected, a retrospective cohort study is relatively easy.
- Take immediate control measures. Determine who is at risk of becoming ill. Look at changes that may have affected the rate of infection, e.g. new staff, new procedures, new laboratory tests, and staff: patient ratio, etc
- Communicate information to relevant personnel.
- Screen personnel and environment as indicated.
- Write a coherent report (preliminary and final).
- Summarize investigation and recommendations to the appropriate authorities.
- Implement long-term infection control measures for prevention of similar outbreaks.

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